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GENEALOGY.

THE BRENT FAMILY.

Compiled by W. B. CHILTON, Washington, D. C.

(CONTINUED.)

THE BRENT FAMILY OF CHARING.

It will be noticed in the foregoing account, that Sir Robert de Brent who married Claricia, daughter and heir of Sir Adam de la Ford, had a second son John, who settled at Charing in Kent, and was the ancestor of a family which continued there for many generations.

The account given of this branch of the family in Hasted's history of Kent is quoted in full in the following pages, and a few wills and records of administrations have been inserted :

THE HISTORY OF KENT.

Charing.

(1367.)

Wickins is a manor in the *Southern* part of this parish, adjoining to *Westwell*, in which part of the lands of it lie. It was originally the patrimony of the family of *Brent*,* and was their most antient seat. *Robert Brent*, the first of this name mentioned in their pedigree, lived in the reign of K. Edward II, and is styled of *Charing*, as were his several descendants afterwards,† one of whom, *William*, son of *Hugh Brent*, married *Juliana*, relict of *Thomas Paunsherst*, of this parish, by whom he inherited the Manor of *Pevington*, and other estates near this place.‡ He died anno 27 Henry VI, leaving issue a Son *Hugh Brent*, who was of *Charing*, and had issue four Sons, of whom *William Brent*, Esq. the eldest, inherited this Manor, and resided at it; and *Robert*, the second Son of *Wilsborough*, an ancestor of the *Brents* of that place.

*Weever says, p. 294. They were branched out of the antient stock of *Brent* in the co. of *Somerset*, of whom *Sir Robert de Brent* was a *Baron of Parliament* in the reign of K. Edward I, (1272). When the church here was burned in 1590, the windows and gravestones, in which this family was noticed, were mostly defaced; but on the outside of the belfry, the *wyver*, being the arms of *Hugh Brent, Esq.*, yet remains.

†Philipott, p. 101, says that *John*, Son of *Robert Brent*, Son of the above *Robert*, paid aid in the 20th year of K. Edward III. (1327), for his lands here; but I find no mention of it in the Book of Aid.

‡She was the daughter of *John Gobion*, of the co. of *Essex*, by his wife *Amobilia*, daughter of *John Pevington*, of *Pevington*, and heir to her two brothers

*At length his great-grand son *Thomas Brent*, Esq., succeeding to this Manor, resided at it till the 12th year of Q. Elizabeth, when becoming heir to *Wilsborough*, by the devise of his kinsman *Robert Brent*, of that place, who died without issue, he removed thither, where he died likewise without issue in 1612, and was buried there. By his last will he bequeathed his manor or tenement called *Wickins Device* and *Caprons* in *Charing* and *Westwell*, and all the lands and appurtenances thereto belonging, to his nephew *Christopher Dering*, of *Charing* who then occupied them. He was the fifth and youngest son of *John Dering* of *Surrenden-Dering*, Esq; by *Margaret*, sister of the above-mentioned *Thomas Brent** and married *Mildred*, daughter of *Francis Swann*, of *Wye*, gent., by whom he had several children, of whom the eldest, *John Dering*, was of *Wickins* gent, as was his eldest son *Christopher Dering*, gent.

WILLS.

(P. C. C. Vox 32.) (Latin)

The will of William Brent of Charrynge, dated 21 December, 1495.

I bequeath my body to be buried in the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul of Charryng, next the tomb of Roger Rey, if there be room.

I bequeath to the high altar there, for my tithes forgotten 5s; and 12d. each to each of the lights in the church,

To my daughter Anne, wife of Edmund Millys, 13s. 4d.

To John, Edward, William and Margaret, children of the said Edmund and Anne, 6s. 8d. apiece.

To Elizabeth Wombwell, my daughter 13s. 4d.; to John Wombwell, son of John Wombwell and the said Elizabeth 6s. 8d.

**John* was the third Son, whose will is in the Prerog. off. Cant. proved anno 1501, by which he ordered his body to be buried in the new chapel of *St. Mary* in this church, in which no burial had then been; and *Thomas* the fourth Son, was L. L. D. *William Brent* the eldest brother made his last will an. 10 Hen. VII, (1505); he left his widow *Amy* surviving, whose will, proved anno 1516, is in the Prerog. off. Cant. by which it seems she was buried in the chapel of *our Lady*, of her own Edification, in this church. Their son *Thomas* possessed this manor and resided here. He died anno 20 Henry VII, (1505) as did their son *John* about the 2nd and 3rd year of Philip and Mary, (1556) leaving by *Anne* his wife, dau. and coheir of *Thomas Berkeley*, two sons and two daughters, viz. *William* who died without issue, and *Thomas*, who succeeded to this Manor; *Margaret*, married first to *John Dering*, of *Surrenden-Dering*, Esq; remarried to *More*, and *Amy*, to *William Crispe*, Lieut. of *Dover Castle*. *John Brent*, Esq; above-mentioned, feasted K. Henry VIII, in this house, as he passed this way towards his then intended siege of *Bulwerin*. Weever, p. 295, who further says, that the hall-window of this seat was full stored with the badges of K. Edward IV, in every quarry of glass.

**Anthony Dering*, Esq. the second son of *John Dering*, Esq. by *Margaret Brent*, was likewise of *Charing*, where he possessed lands by the devise of *Thomas Brent*, of *Willesborough*, Esq; who died in 1612. His eldest son *Finch Dering*, of *Charing*, afterwards died possessed of them in 1625, and was succeeded by his eldest son *Mr. Brent Dering*, who (1625-49), lived here in the reign of K. Charles I.

From The History of Kent, by Edward Hasted-Canterbury 1790. Vol. III, p. 214.

To Margaret, my daughter, 40*li.* to her marriage.

I will that my Chaplain, William Fitz James, shall continue to celebrate for my soul.

Also that my exors shall provide 10*s.* yearly out of a meadow called Broktonysmede, to be received by the occupants of my mansion in Charryng, to keep my anniversary in the church of Charryng.

The residue of my goods I give to Anne my wife, to Thomas Brent L. L. D., and John Brent my brothers, and William Brent, my nephew, whom I ordain my exors.

Witnesses: Robert Rowe, my brother, Roger Pende, and John Duke.

Proved 19th Feb. 1495-6 by master Thomas Brent and John Brent, with power reserved, &c.

The last will of the said William Brent. (Ibid. fol. 34.)

I bequeath all my lands, &c. in Charryng, Perevington, Smerden, Boughton, Materbe, Chaloke, Kenyngton, Wyllysbergh, Henxsell Lymme, Wy & Boughton Allhoff to John, Lord Fyneux, Thos. Brent, clerk, John Nethersole, Christopher Elenden, John Anger, John Duke and Roger Pende, in trust to the uses of my will.

I give my dwelling house in Charing to my wife Anne till my son John comes to the age of 22; & then he shall suffer his mother to have all the chambers my Lady Moile had with the parlours under the same. If my son John die, before that age, then my son Thomas shall do the same; and if Thomas die, then my son Roger.

The manor and advowson of Perevington shall remain to my son Thomas after my wife's death; and the manor of Rippell Wicheley and Halsicke to my son Roger.

NOTE.—This William Brent was the second son of William Brent and Juliana relict of Thomas Paunsherst.

(P. C. C. Doggett 2.) (Latin)

The will of Robert Brent

Dated 30 Oct. 1491

Proved 2 Dec. 1491.

I bequeath my body to be buried in the church of S. Thomas the Martyr of Acon London.

I give to the parish church of Alyngton* one missal, one portuous and one vestment provided the Rector and parishioners pray for my soul.

I will that all my goods now in the castle of Alyngton shall be divided

*From Villare Cantianum-Phillipot-Allington in the Hundred of Larkfield was in possession of the family of Brent in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV (1461). In the eight year of Henry VII (1493), John Brent passed the manor and castle of Allington to Sir Henry Wiat.

into three equal parts, whereof I give one part to my wife, and one part to my executors, to dispose for my soul and the third for the payment of my debts. I will that my son shall have my lands at Willesbrugh charged with an annuity of 20 marks to my wife.

I will that my daughter Ellen shall have one manor called "le More" with the lands thereto adjacent.

Item, that Bylham and all the lands I bought of Elys shall remain to my son William Brent that he may pay my debts if my other goods do not suffice, and that he may help his sister Ellen.

I will that a priest shall celebrate for the soul of Margaret Browning at Chyltham for half a year; and that her daughter Joan Elys shall have the lands called Hookes, unless my son can make some other arrangements with her.

The residue of my goods I bequeath to my executors Robert Rowe & my son William Brent; and I make Thomas Brent, clerk, overseer of this my will.

Proved 2 December 1491 by the executors named.

NOTE.—Robert Brent, the maker of the foregoing will, was the son of Hugh Brent and the nephew of Wm. Brent, the maker of the will immediately preceding.

(P. C. C. Blamyr 3.)*

The will of Agnes Drakes, widow, late the wife of Richard Drakes.

Dated in the feast of St. Lawrence, 1500.

I bequeath my body to be buried in the chapel of St. Anne in the parish church of St. Aunteyn in London, beside the sepulture of Richard Brent, my 1st husband.

I give to the high altars of St. Bartholomew the Little in London, and of the parish church of Bekynham in Kent, 20s. each

To each of the 4 orders of friars in London 10s. each.

I will an honest priest shall sing for the soul of Richard Drakes, my late husband, for 20 years, according to his will, and for the souls of Richard Brent, my first husband, and my father and mother, in the church of St. Antenye aforesaid. I will that there will be given to the poor in alms in conveying my body to London, 4*li*.

I give to Edmund Brogreve, priest, my brother 10*li*.

To the house of friars of Hicchon. 6*li* 13s. 4d.

To Frier John Plumer of the same house 40s.

To Agnes Plumer, mother of the said John, 20s.

To Ann Brogreve, daughter of William Brogreve, 40s.

To Sir William Derrant, frior of the said place of Hicchen 20s.

* This will is probably that of the widow of one of the Brents of Charing. Her husband, Richard Brent, is not named, however, in the published accounts.

To Nicholas Brogreve, and Alice Brogreve, my sister, all my manors, lands and tenements, that be freehold by deed or copy-hold in the town of Hicchon, Walden, Preston, Poletts, Ikilford, and Wymondley, in the counties of Hertford and Bedford, to hold to them and their heirs, to be divided equally between the said Nicholas and his sister, to whom I give the residue of my goods, to pray for my soul, making them my exors & Master Thomas Brent, doctor in the law, my supervisor.

Witnesses:—John Garter, Richard Dawes, Thomas Lorkyn, John Aldey and Richard Aldey.

Proved 24 Sept. 1501 by the exors named.

The following interesting description of Charing Church is transcribed from a paper by John Sayer, Esq., of Pett Place, Charing.

[Large parts of this account have been necessarily omitted from considerations of space.]

CHARING CHURCH.

By John Sayer of Pett Place Esq.

The name of this parish used to be pronounced Char-ing, or the Market Place. When had Charing first a church? None is mentioned in Domesday Book, but I think there must have been a church here prior to the Norman Conquest and long prior to any distinguishable portion of the present edifice. A reference to the church of Charing, with its chapel (meaning Egerton) is found in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas A. D. 1291.

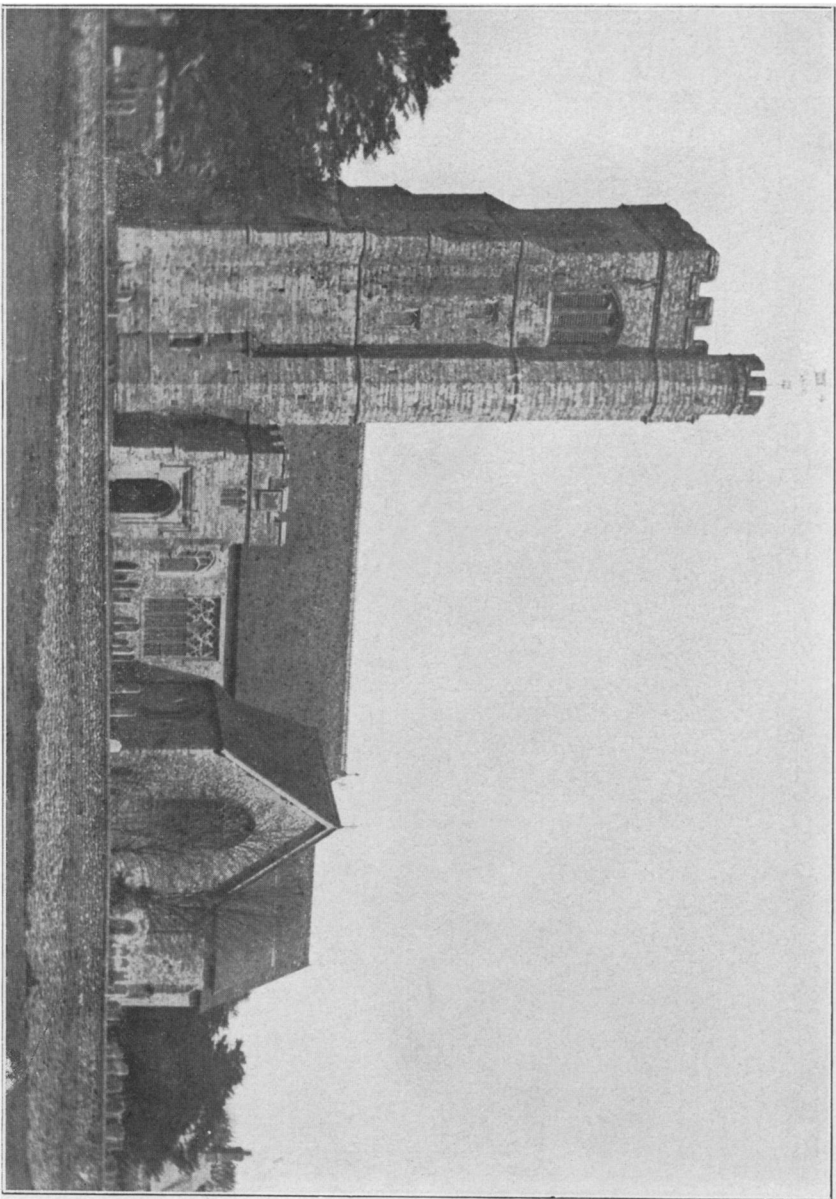
In the Parish Church the oldest visible marks of date will be found in two lancet windows; one in the north wall of the nave, and another (with a slightly different heading) in the north wall of the chancel. There are also remains, now covered with plaster, of an early English string-course, running just below the window sills, along the north and south walls of the nave and round the north transept.

Guessing from the date of these remains, the earliest portion of the present church may have been erected between A. D. 1220 and A. D. 1250, built perhaps when Henry III was King, and when Stephen Langton, as Archbishop of Canterbury, resided from time to time in the adjoining Manor House.

The transepts appear to be of a little later date, although the string course before mentioned was found in the north transept; but the labels above the windows there are in character transitional, between Early English and Decorated. The south transept has been much altered.

In the chancel are three Sedilia of varying height, for the priest, deacon, and sub-deacon; here, perhaps occupied by the Archbishop, his chaplain and cross bearer.

The present sedilia are for the most part a modern restoration by Mr.



From a photograph.

CHARING CHURCH, KENT, ENGLAND.

Christian, Sir Stephen Glynne, in 1854, called them "three plain rude sedelia mis-shapen and obtuse.

The windows of the church vary much in character, and indicate in a marked manner the people's progressive desire for more light ; increasing from the narrow Early English lancet to the Perpendicular window of unusually large size, to be seen on the north side of the nave below the transept.

On the south side of the nave is a 'Decorated reticulated window of great size, which is very remarkable of its kind. It is square headed, and is itself nearly a perfect square. The design is ingenious and the effect good, I believe it to be pure Decorated of about A. D. 1350. In the north transept there are also reticulated windows, probably of the same date.

The chapel known as the Wicken Chapel, on the south side of the chancel, deserves particular attention. This is the chapel of St. Mary, built by Amy Brent, the widow of Wm. Brent, who lived in an interesting old house in this parish called Wickens. She died in the year 1516, and by her will directed that she should be buried "in the chapel of Our Lady of her own edification." John Brent, the brother of Amy Brent's husband, by his will, proved in 1501, likewise ordered his body to be buried in the new Chapel of St. Mary, in which no burial then had been ; so that as to the Wickens chancel there is no question as to the date of the building being circa A. D. 1499.

Attention should next be directed to the tower, with its fine arch opening into the nave ; a singularly well proportioned example of what have been called Kentish towers, and having angle buttresses of a remarkable character, the face of each buttress being formed anglewise. The porch plainly appears to have been built at the same time as the tower ; both being of good ragstone masonry and of Perpendicular work. Weever, writing about the year 1592, said : "On the outside of the belfry do remain carved in stone the badge of Edward IV (being a rose within the sun beams), and a wivern, being the arms of Hugh Brent, who in the reign of Edward IV, was the principal founder of this belfry, which was before of wood."

The tower has a fine west doorway, no doubt intended as the processional entry for the Archbishop and his attendants ; the porch having been built for the use of the people, to supersede an older and loftier doorway, traces of which may be seen above the inner porch door.

Within the porch are the remains of the stoup for holy water, with a hooded covering, and outside, between the porch and the tower is a niche intended doubtless for an image or statue, of which however, there is no vestige. For the fine roofs in both nave and chancel, of distinctive Elizabethan character, the church is indebted to those parishioners who witnessed the great fire, which happened in the year 1590 ; respecting which Robert Honywood of Pett, a lineal ancestor of the

present owner of Pett Place, who is the writer of this paper, made at the the time following note in his diary ; " mem.: The parish church of Charing was burnt upon Tuesday the 4th of Augnst, 1590, and the bells in the steeple melted with the extremity of the fire ; nothing of the church was left but the bare walls, except the floor over the porch and the floor over the turret, where the weather-cock doth stand. The fire chanced by means of a birding-piece discharged by one Mr. Dios, which fired in the shingles ; the day being very hot and the same shingles very dry."

(TO BE CONTINUED.).

THE MALLORY FAMILY.

(CONTINUED)

On account of several errors in printing in the will of William Mallory given in the October Magazine, page 218, it is reprinted here.

"In Dei nomine Amen. Ego Willelmus Malliore senior, armiger Sepeliendum in eccles. S. Petri Ripon coram altare B. Mariae. Optimum animae nominie mortuarii*. Lego Johanna Filiae meae de redditibus provenientibus de Hoton juxta Ripon, et Over Dedinsall C Marcas. Ad maritagium Margaretae filiae mea, C Marcas. Volo quod Henricus Malliore Christoforus Malliore, Georgius Malliore and Ricardus Malliore, filii mei, habeant terras pro termino vitae suae ad valenciam X L marcarum, in villis de Lynton in Craven Brompton Coppidhewyk, Granteley, Wynkysley Wodehouse and Hylton Flyghan in com. Westm. quae sunt de jure & hereditate Dionisiae uxoris mei dicti Willelmi Malliore. Do et lego monasterio S. Roberti & fratribus suis pro uno obitu pro anima mea vjs. viij. d. Residuum lego Dionisiae uxori meae, Christofero Malliore and Johanna sorori ejus, quos facio executores. Dat 1 May MCCCCLXX ij. Prob 25 April 1475. (Reg. Test, Ebor. IV 125.)"

Sir John had issue:

I. William¹, II. Robert¹, III. John¹.

(*) POPULAR ANTIQUITIES OF GREAT BRITAIN. HAZLITT—VOL. II,
PAGES 199-200.

MORTUARIES.

The payment of mortuaries is of great antiquity. It was anciently done by leading or driving a horse or cow, &c., before the corpse of the deceased at his funeral. It was considered as a gift left by a man at his death, by way of recompense for all failures in the payment of tithes and oblations, and called a corse present. It is mentioned in the National Council of Ensham about the year 1006. (Collier's "Ecclesiast. History," Vol. I, p. 487.)

Mortuaries were called by our Saxon Ancestors Soul *shot*, or *payment*. (See a curious account of them in Dugdale's "Hist. of Warwickshire," 1st edit., p. 679. See also, Cowel's "Interpreter *in voce*," and Selden's "History of Tithes," p. 287.) "*Offeringes at Burialles*" are in a list of "Grosse Poyntes of Poperie, evident to all Men," in "A Parte of a Register, condemned," &c. [circa 1593.]